



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Jacksonville District

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Pulse releases may benefit Caloosahatchee***

### **Corps continues weeklong pulse releases**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, will continue pulse releases of freshwater from Lake Okeechobee beginning Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7 a.m.

Another seven-day pulse release will begin through the W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79) to the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The current action of no discharges to the St. Lucie Estuary through S-80 will continue.

The target flow for this pulse release (see attached schedule) to the Caloosahatchee Estuary is an average flow over a seven-day period of 650 cubic feet per second (cfs), measured at W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79). Initiation of subsequent seven-day pulse releases may continue until conditions change.

Pulse-type releases more closely resemble the naturally occurring pattern of runoff caused by rain, which normally leads to an increase in runoff as rain continues to fall and is followed by a gradual decrease in runoff. These releases are expected to help maintain suitable salinity ranges, which are conducive to the sustainability of estuarine organisms in the upper estuary, and to benefit the overall ecology of this area by promoting the mixing of salinity levels and nutrient concentrations from one water level to another.

No discharges to the St. Lucie Estuary is viewed as very beneficial by estuary scientists who point out that the St. Lucie Canal has established an outlet to Lake Okeechobee and a direct link to the St. Lucie River that did not naturally occur. The connection was established in the late 1920s by the Everglades Drainage District, a predecessor of the South Florida Water Management District.



State and local scientists will closely monitor conditions within the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. The information collected may lead to a better understanding of the effect that different patterns of freshwater releases have on this sensitive ecosystem.

One of the most significant benefits of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (2008 LORS) is that it allows decision-makers some flexibility for water management. While the lake is at this level, releases may be made up to 450 cfs and 200 cfs to the Caloosahatchee and St Lucie estuaries, respectively. The 2008 LORS also allows these releases to be distributed east and west up to 650 cfs as needed to minimize impacts or provide additional benefits.

For further information, please call the Jacksonville District Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1953 or (cell) 904-704-6870.

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